

## Message Text

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54

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 PC-01 CU-02 /084 W

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P R 181817Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3414

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PFOR, NI

SUBJ: FMG ANNOUNCES GOWON IMPLICATED IN ABORTIVE COUP.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND CAPE TOWN  
FOR EMBASSY

1. FMG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS INVESTIGATIONS SINCE LAST FRIDAY'S  
ABORTIVE COUP SHOW THAT THE COUP PLOTTERS HAD AS AN OBJECTIVE THE  
RETURN TO POWER OF FORMER HEAD OF STATE GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON AND HIS  
MILITARY GOVERNORS. ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED THAT FMG HAS AMPLE EVIDENCE  
TO SHOW THAT GOWON KNEW ABOUT AND BY IMPLICATION APPROVED THE COUP  
ATTEMPT.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT GOES ON TO STATE THAT THERE WAS A LONG LIST OF  
INTENDED ASSASSINATION TARGETS, IN ADDITION TO GENERAL MURTALA  
MUHAMMED, WHICH INCLUDED NEW HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, CHIEF OF ARMY  
STAFF LT. GEN. DANJUMA AND COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
COL. JOSEPH GARBA.

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3. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OBJECTIVE OF COUP WAS TO RESTORE GOWON AND HIS UNPOPULAR AND CORRUPT STATE GOVERNORS TO POWER MAY HELP CALM AN INCREASINGLY UNEASY NIGERIA. ANNOUNCEMENT COULD RESULT IN A LESSENING OF ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING. GOWON'S CONTINUING PRESENCE IN UK, HOWEVER, COUPLED WITH COUP LEADER DIMKA'S VISIT TO U.K. HIGH COMMISSION LAST FRIDAY, MAY SERVE TO KEEP CHARGES OF BRITISH COMPLICITY ALIVE. IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT PRESS WILL ATTEMPT CONTRAST GOWON'S NON-ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY WITH MUHAMMEDS FORTHRIGHT PRO-MPLA STANCE (AND HIS ATTACKS ON US ANGOLAN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY) IN A WAY THAT WILL SUGGEST US IMPLICATION IN COUP PLOT.  
EASUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ASSASSINATION, MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS02020  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D760061-0052  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760240/aaaabish.tel  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PGOV, PFOR, NI, (GOWON, YAKUBU), (MUHAMMED, MURTALA)  
**To:** STATE LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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